



BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
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# Town of Bolton

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Administrative Officer  
Town of Bolton  
Public Hearing  
Labor Committee  
February 24, 2015

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the following bills that **would make modest adjustments to state's prevailing wage laws** to bring them more in line with current construction costs: SB-113, SB-114, SB-180, SB-181, HB-5071, HB-5072, HB-5073, HB-5074, HB-5075, HB-5076, HB-5078, HB-5079, HB-5208, HB-5209, HB-5440, HB-5441, HB-5510, HB-5511, HB-5515, HB-5516, HB-5613, HB-6246, HB-6250, HB-6251, HB-6650, and HB-6666.

Prevailing wage rates significantly drive up the cost of state and local construction projects, particularly small projects, such as salt sheds and garages, that are not sophisticated construction projects.

The prevailing wage laws are not intended to cover small projects that do not require large commercial construction companies to build. Recognizing this, the legislature periodically adjusted prevailing wage thresholds to reflect increases in the costs of construction projects to exclude small municipal projects.

Under the current thresholds, even small municipal projects and renovations are covered under prevailing wage requirements, significantly increasing the costs associated with such projects. Because of this, many towns put off repairing buildings or initiating new projects. Unfortunately, this hurts our community, which would benefit from upgraded buildings and infrastructure and also our local contractors, who could perform work on these projects.

By adjusting the prevailing wage thresholds, these bills will help control local costs, spur the development of municipal construction projects and help hold the line on property tax increases. Given the difficult budgetary climate and the continued pressure on towns to do more with less, we must provide towns with relief from unfunded mandates and give them the tools to manage local budgets.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of increasing the prevailing wage thresholds.